



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Good afternoon Chairs Slossberg and Spallone, Ranking Members McLachlan and Hetherington, and Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I am here to testify in support of Raised Bill 5327, *An Act Expanding Certain Reverse Auction Authority to the Purchase of Certain Services by Municipalities, School Districts and State Agencies*.

On behalf of the House Republican Caucus, I would like to thank the GAE Committee for raising this bill proposal as it would allow municipalities to achieve savings on certain services through cooperative purchasing contracts. Now, more than ever, our municipalities are looking for ways to keep their costs down, and by making this simple change to our statutes, they will be able to do exactly that.

As you are probably already aware, current law allows municipalities, school districts and state agencies to use reverse auctions for the purchase of goods and supplies. Raised Bill 5327 will expand the ability of our municipalities to also utilize reverse auctions for the purchase of several essential services required for the proper functioning of the municipality. Under this proposal, services available for purchase through reverse auctions will include: laundry and cleaning services, janitorial services, rental, repair or maintenance of equipment, machinery or other personal property owned by school districts, and others.

Amending the general statutes to add "services" to the list of cooperative purchasing contracts that municipalities can enter into will take only a small amount of effort on our part as legislators, but it will mean much more to the municipalities who will partake in such cooperative purchases. Reverse auctions have already been a major part of our state's purchasing power, and have saved the state considerably. There cannot be a better time than right now to expand this process to our municipalities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I urge this committee to quickly pass this bill and move it to the full General Assembly for vote and passage so our municipalities can have another tool to help them achieve cost savings.

Thank You,
Representative Larry Cafero
142 District